

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED

**HON. J. FRENCH HILL**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2022*

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, April 26, 2022, marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Frederick Law Olmsted.

Over a lengthy career, Olmsted was an author, journalist, public official, city planner, landscape architect, and creative genius who transformed the American landscape.

Olmsted's philosophy and designs influenced the development of beautiful and functional landscapes, including parks and parkways, college campuses, planned communities, estates, cemeteries, recreation areas, and specialized landscapes for arboreta and expositions including, the U.S. Capitol grounds, New York City's Central Park, Yosemite Valley, Hot Springs National Park, and Stanford University.

Olmsted is remembered as the premier landscape architect in the United States during the 19th century and is considered to be the founder of landscape architecture in the United States. He was also one of the first individuals to promote the idea of national parks in his 1865 Yosemite Report.

Olmsted believed that thoughtful landscape designs should promote community, advance democracy, provide recreational opportunities in urban environments, nurture and invigorate public health, and encourage the development of livable communities.

Olmsted's associates, sons, and successor firms carried out his philosophy and designs well into the 20th century, leaving a tremendous legacy of historic landscapes that continues to benefit the people of the United States and visitors throughout the world.

Olmsted inspired the development of large parks and park systems for public benefit in urban areas, creating a legacy of parks that are a singular feature of the urban experience.

Olmsted's landscape designs play a vital role in the enrichment of quality of life in hundreds of communities across the United States who are celebrating this bicentennial anniversary as part of a coordinated national and local celebration.

I commend this occasion and celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Frederick Law Olmsted.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF J. DARREN STEWART

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2022*

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the distin-

guished service of Chief Darren Stewart of Pawcatuck, Connecticut. As the Chief of Police in Stonington, Stewart led an esteemed career that spanned over 38 years since he joined the force at the age of 19. In leading the division for the last 14 years, Chief Stewart has embodied the spirit of a perfect role model and leader—one that I am sure that future chiefs, not just in Stonington but also across the entire district, will look to in praise and admiration.

In addition to serving in the police department, Stewart also pursued a passion for learning and teaching. In 2000, he earned a Bachelor of General Studies from the University of Connecticut in Storrs and continued his studies at Salve Regina University of Rhode Island to earn his Master of Business Administration in Management. Armed with these degrees and a passion for helping others grow, Darren began a secondary career as a professor for his alma maters and the Connecticut State Police Academy in 2004. Since his first day as a professor, Stewart has proved a patient and wise teacher committed to educating future community members.

Chief Stewart's dual-path as an educator and community leader proved to make him a natural, steady-handed Chief of the Stonington Police Department. Passionate about the protection of his local community, Stewart's dedication and impressive work ethic earned him the promotion of Chief of Police in 2008. As someone whose career originated with the force, he came into the role with a clear understanding of the greatest opportunities for improvement. It was with this background in mind that prioritizing an efficient and resource-rich workforce became the first, second and third priority.

One-by-one, Chief Stewart marked off his checklist of goals for the force, equipping his officers with the tools that they needed to succeed. This included updating mechanical systems and computer technology, acquiring a new police boat, and creating a chaplain program to assist his officers with the toughest part of the job—notifying immediate family of the tragic loss of one of their colleagues. Notably, it was also with much thanks to Chief Stewart's efforts that Stonington led the movement to invest in local communications infrastructure and tie the agency into the state's superior radio system. As a result of Chief Stewart's initiative and the town's major upgrade in terms of safe and efficient communication, Stonington earned the 2018 Municipal Excellence Award from the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities. With Chief Stewart at the helm, the Stonington Police Department also entered a parenthood with Safe Futures, a social services agency based in nearby New London, Connecticut, which now supports the town in assisting victims of domestic violence. My office has worked with the Stonington Police Department to obtain federal competitive grant funding in the past and I can personally attest that the department would not be nearly as well equipped and successful as it is today without Chief Stewart's hard work and advocacy for his fellow officers.

Madam Speaker, I am so proud to represent such selfless and committed constituents as Darren Stewart in the second district of Connecticut. Inspired by his wife, Beth, three daughters, and the difference made by his own colleagues, Chief Stewart set out to ensure the Stonington Police Department worked for their partners: the People of Stonington. Though his transition into his new role undoubtedly leaves large shoes to fill, we find gratitude in the fact that he has left the department in incredible standing, in capable hands, and that Chief Stewart will remain an active member of the local community. To that end, as he embarks on this next chapter with his family, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in honoring Chief J. Darren Stewart, an inspiring leader and impeccable role model, for his huge successes in the police department and impact on the countless lives of others, extending the legacy of his career.

HONORING THE CAREER OF CHRIS WILDER

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2022*

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Chris Wilder who is retiring after 18 years as the President and Executive Director of the Valley Medical Center Foundation. His impact and contributions can be seen throughout our community.

In 2004, Chris Wilder joined the Valley Medical Center Foundation, which is the nonprofit organization that acts as the community fundraising arm for Santa Clara County Valley Medical Center. This center provides care to 1 in 4 valley residents and is home to San Jose's only top-level trauma center. Since joining the foundation, Chris has raised more than \$100 million for our safety net health system. In his first two years alone in the position, he led two multimillion-dollar capital campaigns that allowed for the completion of the Parisi House on the Hill and the purchase of a new linear accelerator for the Sobrato Cancer Center. He also was a major champion for Measure A, which generated \$840 million to build Sobrato Pavilion, the new adult hospital building and a major health center in downtown San Jose. Chris was integral in Santa Clara County's COVID-19 response, where he helped secure over \$30 million in funds and donated supplies to protect healthcare workers, expand testing, and support vaccination efforts.

I have been honored to see his work firsthand and am so grateful for his steadfast resolve to help ensure that our safety net remains strong. He's been rightfully called a "nonprofit superhero" as his efforts can be seen throughout the Valley Medical Center campus. Please join me in thanking Mr. Wilder for his years of dedication and wishing him the very best in his retirement.

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